NUMB. CCCXXXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Voluiſti, in ſuo Genere, unumquemque noſtrum quaſi quendam eſſe Roſcium, dixiſtique non tam ea quæ recta eſſent probari, quam quæ prava ſunt faſtidiis adhæreſcere. Cicero de Geſtu.

Monday, March 24. 1712.

IT is very natural to take for our whole Lives a light Impreſſion of a thing which at firſt fell into Contempt with us for want of Conſideration. The real Uſe of a certain Qualification (which the wiſer part of Mankind look upon as at beſt an indifferent thing, and generally a frivolous Circumſtance) ſhews the ill Conſequence of ſuch Prepoſſeſſions. What I mean is the Art, Skill, Accompliſhment, or whatever you will call it, of Dancing. I knew a Gentleman of great Abilities, who bewailed the Want of this part of his Education to the End of a very honourable Life. He obſerved that there was not occaſion for the common Uſe of great Talents; that they are but ſeldom in Demand; and that theſe very great Talents were often rendered uſeleſs to a Man for want of ſmall Attainments. A good Mein (a becoming Motion, Geſture and Aſpect) is natural to ſome Men; but even theſe would be highly more graceful in their Carriage, if what they do from the Force of Nature were confirmed and heighten'd by the Force of Reaſon. To one who has not well conſidered it, to mention the Force of Reaſon on a Subject, will appear fantaſtical; but when you have a little attended to it, an Aſſembly of Men will have quite another View; and they will tell you, it is evident from plain and infallible Rules, why this Man with thoſe beautiful Features, and well-faſhioned Perſon, is not ſo agreeable as he who ſits by him without any of thoſe Advantages. When we read we do it without any expreſs Act of Memory that preſents the Shape of the Letters; but Habit makes us do it mechanically without ſtaying, like Children, to recollect and join thoſe Letters. A Man who has not had the Regard of his Geſture in any part of his Education will find himſelf unable to act with Freedom before new Company, as a Child that is but now learning would be to read without Heſitation. It is for the Advancement of the Pleaſure we receive in being agreeable to each other in ordinary Life, that one would wiſh Dancing were generally underſtood as conducive as it really is to a proper Deportment in Matters that appear the moſt remote from it. A Man of Learning and Senſe is diſtinguiſhed from others as he is ſuch, tho' he never ſpeak upon Points too difficult for the reſt of the World; in like Manner the reaching out of the Arm, and the moſt ordinary Motion, diſcovers whether a Man ever learnt to know what is the Harmony and Compoſure of his Limbs and Countenance. Whoever has ſeen *Booth* in the Character of *Pyrrhus* march to his Throne to receive Andromache, is convinced that majeſtick and great Conceptions are expreſſed in the very Step; but perhaps tho' no other Man could perform that Incident as well as he does, he himſelf would do it with yet greater Elevation were he a Dancer. This is ſo dangerous a Subject to treat with Gravity, that I ſhall not at preſent enter into it any further: But the Author of the following Letter has treated it in the Eſſay he ſpeaks of in ſuch a Manner, that I am beholden to him for a Reſolution, that I will never hereafter think meanly of any thing, till I have heard what they who have another Opinion of it have to ſay in its Defence.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'SInce there are ſcarce any of the Arts or Sciences 'that have not been recommended to the 'World by the Pens of ſome of the Profeſſors, Maſters, or Lovers of them, whereby the Uſefulneſs, 'Excellence, and Benefit ariſing from them, both as 'to the ſpeculative and practical Part, have been 'made publick, to the great Advantage and Improvement of ſuch Arts and Sciences; why ſhould 'Dancing, an Art celebrated by the Ancients in ſo 'extraordinary a Manner, be totally neglected by 'the Moderns, and left deſtitute of any Pen to 'recommend its various Excellencies and ſubſtantial Merit to Mankind?

'The low Ebb to which Dancing is now fallen, is altogether owing to this Silence. The 'Art is eſteem'd only as an amuſing Trifle; it 'lies altogether uncultivated, and is unhappily 'fall'n under the Imputation of Illiterate and 'Mechanic: And as *Terence*, in one of his Prologues, complains of the Rope-dancers drawing all the Spectators from his Play, ſo may we 'well ſay, that Capering and Tumbling is now preferred to, and ſupplies the Place of, juſt and regular Dancing on our Theatres. It is therefore, in 'my Opinion, high Time, that ſome one ſhould 'come in to its Aſſiſtance, and relieve it from the 'many groſs and growing Errors that have crept 'into it, and over-caſt its real Beauties; and to 'ſet Dancing in its true Light, would ſhew the Uſefulneſs and Elegancy of it, with the Pleaſure and 'Inſtruction produc'd from it; and alſo lay 'down ſome fundamental Rules, that might ſo tend 'to the Improvement of its Profeſſors and Information of the Spectators, that the firſt might be 'the better enabled to perform, and the latter rendred more capable of judging, is what (if there 'be any thing) valuable in this Art.

'To encourage therefore ſome ingenious Pen capable of ſo generous an Undertaking, and in 'ſome Meaſure to relieve Dancing from the Diſadvantages it at preſent lies under, I who teach to 'dance have attempted a ſmall Treatiſe as an Eſſay towards an Hiſtory of Dancing: in which I 'have enquired into its Antiquity, Original, and 'Uſe, and ſhewn what Eſteem the Ancients had 'for it: I have likewiſe conſidered the Nature and 'Perfection of all its ſeveral Parts, and how beneficial and delightful it is, both as a Qualification

or

‘ or an Exerciſe; and endeavour'd to anſwer all ‘ Objections that have been maliciouſly rais'd a- ‘ gainſt it. I have proceeded to give an Account of ‘ the particular Dances of the *Greeks* and *Romans*, ‘ whether Religious, Warlike, or Civil; and taken ‘ particular Notice of that Part of Dancing relating ‘ to the ancient Stage, and in which the *Pantomimes* ‘ had ſo great a Share: Nor have I been wanting in ‘ giving an hiſtorical Account of ſome particular ‘ Maſters excellent in that ſurprizing Art; after ‘ which I have advanc'd ſome Obſervations on the ‘ modern Dancing, both as to the Stage, and that ‘ Part of it ſo abſolutely neceſſary for the Qua- ‘ lification of Gentlemen and Ladies; and have ‘ concluded with ſome ſhort Remarks on the Ori- ‘ gin and Progreſs of the Character by which Dan- ‘ ces are writ down, and communicated to one Ma- ‘ ſter from another. If ſome great Genius after ‘ this would ariſe, and advance this Art to that ‘ Perfection it ſeems capable of receiving, what ‘ might not be expected from it? For if we conſi- ‘ der the Origin of Arts and Sciences, we ſhall find ‘ that ſome of them took Riſe from Beginnings ſo ‘ mean and unpromiſing, that it is very wonderful ‘ to think that ever ſuch ſurprizing Structures ‘ ſhould have been rais'd upon ſuch ordinary Foun- ‘ dations. But what cannot a great Genius effect? ‘ Who would have thought that the clangorous ‘ Noiſe of a Smith's Hammers ſhould have given ‘ the firſt Riſe to Muſick? Yet *Macrobius* in his 2d ‘ Book relates, that *Pythagoras*, in paſſing by a ‘ Smith's Shop, found, that the Sounds proceeding ‘ from the Hammers were either more grave or acute, ‘ according to the different Weights of the Ham- ‘ mers. The Philoſopher, to improve this Hint, ‘ ſuſpends different Weights by Strings of the ‘ ſame Bigneſs, and found in like Manner that ‘ the Sounds anſwer'd to the Weights. This ‘ being diſcovered, he finds out thoſe Numbers ‘ which produced Sounds that were Conſonants: ‘ As, that two Strings of the ſame Subſtance and ‘ Tenſion, the one being double the Length of the ‘ other, give that Interval which is call'd *Diapaſon*, ‘ or an Eighth; the ſame was alſo effected from ‘ two Strings of the ſame Length and Size, the ‘ one having four times the Tenſion of the o- ‘ ther. By theſe Steps, from ſo mean a Begin- ‘ ning, did this great Man reduce, what was ‘ only before Noiſe, to one of the moſt delightful ‘ Sciences, by marrying it to the Mathematicks; ‘ and by that means caus'd it to be one of the moſt ‘ abſtract and demonſtrative of Sciences. Who ‘ knows therefore but Motion, whether Decorous ‘ or Repreſentative, may not (as it ſeems highly ‘ probable it may) be taken into Conſideration by ‘ ſome Perſon capable of reducing it into a regular ‘ Science, tho' not ſo demonſtrative as that pro- ‘ ceeding from Sounds, yet ſufficient to entitle it to ‘ a Place among the magnify'd Arts.

‘ Now, Mr. SPECTATOR, as you have declared ‘ your ſelf Viſitor of Dancing-Schools, and this be- ‘ ing an Undertaking which more immediately re- ‘ ſpects them; I think my ſelf indiſpenſably ob- ‘ lig'd, before I proceed to the Publication of this ‘ my Eſſay, to ask your Advice; and hold it abſo- ‘ lutely neceſſary to have your Approbation; and ‘ in order to recommend my Treatiſe to the Peru- ‘ ſal of the Parents of ſuch as learn to Dance, as ‘ well as of the young Ladies to whom, as Viſitor, ‘ you ought to be Guardian.

Salop, March 19, 1711-12.

I am SIR, *Your moſt humble Servant.*

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this preſent Monday, being the 24th of March, will be pre- ſented a new Tragedy call'd, The Diſtreſt Mother. By her Majeſty's Command no Perſons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

At the Golden Sugar-Loaf, right againſt the Horſe at Charing Croſs, is juſt now made up, A freſh Parcel of Mourning Gowns for Men and Women, of broadeſt Silks, rich Da- maſk Sattins and Callicoes, with ſuitable Linings, the Goods being bought of Perſons that fail'd, and are ſold conſiderable cheaper than any Shop can afford, with Canvis and the neweſt faſhioned quilted Petticoats. N. B. Several pretend to ſell under the ſame Notion, but not have the Variety, nor ſo good Pennyworth.

At the Crown in Wine-Office-Court the 2d Door on the Left-hand from Fleet-ſtreet, on Saturday the 9th of February laſt were opened 3 Books for the SALE of NUMBERS, which have met with very good Succeſs and Encouragement; propoſing Cent. per Cent. Advantage in a Return of no longer Time than 4 Weeks for the firſt hundred Numbers, and none will ſtay longer than 6 Weeks from the Time of their Entrance before they receive the pro- poſed Advantage. Attendance is given daily from 9 to 12, and from 2 till 6.

To be Lett,

Two new brick Houſes, ſituate in the upper End of Alderſgate-ſtreet, compleatly ſeated and wainſcotted, conve- nient for Merchants, with Stables, Coach-houſes, Vaults, and Ware-houſes (or without) Inquire at Mr. William Smith's in the ſaid Street.

To be let or ſold a Pennyworth.

A new faſhionable well built Brick Houſe (lately Wm Cook's Eſq;) at Barnes in Surrey, 2 Miles nearer London than Richmond; with two Gardens wall'd round and well Planted with the beſt of Fruit; in which are two Green-houſes with Orange and Myrtle-trees; a Coach-houſe, Stables, Dove-coat Summer houſe, Out-houſes, and all other Conveniences, with or without 4 Acres of Land next to the Garden. Enquire at the ſaid Houſe, or at the next Door.

TO BE LETT.

At Mortlake in Surrey near the lower Road to Richmond, a very good Brick Houſe, wainſcotted and ſeated, with Coach-houſe, Stables, and other Out-houſes, Gardens and Ground walled in and planted with the choiceſt of Fruit trees and beſt of Greens, the Fruit being worth more than half the Rent. Inquire at St. Paul's Coffee houſe, or of Mr. Hunt, Upholder, at the 2 Pillows in St. Paul's Church-yard, or of Mr. James Cooke, Carpenter, in Mort- lake. N. B. Some Furniture in the Houſe will be diſpoſed of there with if deſired.

At Whitton in Middleſex is to be lett (with Land or without) a very good faſhionable Houſe of 8 Rooms on a Floor, with Sash-Windows and Cloſets, and very good Offices, Landry, Brew-houſe and Dove-houſe, Coach-houſe and Stables, and very handſome Gardens wall'd round and planted with the beſt Fruit, a- dorn'd with Statues, fine Greens, and a Wilderneſs, and Kitchen- Gardens, all lying compact. It is between Hſleworth and Twicken- ham, about 10 Miles from London, 3 from Brentford, 3 from Kings- ton, 2 from Richmond, and between 2 and 3 from Hampton-Court. Enquire of Mr. Thomas Jackſon Surgeon at Twickenham, or at Tom's Coffee-houſe in Devereux-Court near the Temple, London.

At Mr. Joſhua Sylveſter's at the Unicorn in New- ſtreet, there remains near 5 Gallons of the late Mrs. Hunt's Stock of rich Cordials, Waters, Spirits, and Perfumes, conſiſting of Poſ- ſey Drops, Spirit of Lavender, Viper Water, Citron Water, Spirit of Oranges, Spirit of Clary, Spirit of Mint, Spirit of Balm, Ruſ- ſia, Hungary Water, near a Pint of prepared Amber-greece, four Ounces of Oil of Lavender: All (as aforeſaid) made by the ſaid Mrs. Hunt and no one elſe; and are to be ſold by Order of the Ad- miniſtrator of Mr. Thomas Hunt, deceaſed, by Mrs. Suſanna Jack- ſon. Alſo a Gallon of Brandy and ſeveral Quarts of pickled Broom- buds in Bottles.

At Mr. England's a Powder Shop over againſt the Ball and Gate Inn near Little Turn Stile in High Holborn, is kept an Office on the Lives of pregnant Women and their Children, to the great Satisfaction and Advantage of all that are concerned therein: Out of which the Perſons claiming have received near 1000 l. ſince December laſt, very few having received leſs than at the Rate of between 2 and 300 l. per Cent in the Year clear Pro- fit, and none under 100 l. for every 100 in the Year, over all above all Loſſes, as can be plainly made appear. At the ſame Place, on the 21ſt of this Inſtant March, at the Requeſt of Subſcribers, was o- pened a new Book of the like Nature in 3 Diviſions, wherein no Perſon will pay any thing (except Entrance Money) for 6 Weeks after the Date of their Admittance. Note, All Perſons always re- ceive their Money a Fortnight after their Claim is made.

Very great Choice of all Sorts of the beſt Black Silks for Hoods and Scarves, and rich Black Paduaſwarts and Black and coloured Mantuas for Gowns and Petticoats, likewiſe White Sar- ſenets and Perſians for Hoods, and coloured Perſians for Lyonings, are ſold very great Pennyworths either wholeſale or Retale, at the Globe Ball and two Rowls of Silk in St. Martins le Grand near Alderſgate, the ſecond Door above Angel-ſtreet, one Side being a Slipper and Lea- ther Clogg Maker's Shop; by one who was bread a Mercer and late- ly lived on Ludgate-hill. He likewiſe ſells Furbulowed Scarves and Aprons ready made very cheap.

A moſt incomparable Powder to prevent and cure Convulſion Fits in Men, Women, and Children, is faithfully pre- pared by Mrs. Mary Cooke, and to be had at her Houſe over-againſt the fore Gate of Doctor's Commons, and no where elſe in London.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.